

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for predicting the absolute total number of software defects for an upcoming software release, comprising the steps of:

determining the relative size of the upcoming software release with respect to a baseline software release; and

forecasting the absolute total number of software defects for the upcoming software release based on the relative size of the upcoming software release and the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release;

wherein determining the relative size of the upcoming software release includes the steps of:

determining the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release;

determining the number of test requirements for the baseline software release; and

dividing the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release by the number of test requirements for the baseline software release; and

displaying the absolute total number of software defects for the upcoming software release to a user on a display device.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forecasting step includes multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release by the relative size of the upcoming software release.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forecasting step includes multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release by the sum of the relative size of the upcoming software release and a regression defect factor.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forecasting step includes multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline

software release by the sum of the relative size of the upcoming software release and a refactoring factor.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including determining a quality measurement for the upcoming software release based on the actual absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release relative to the forecasted absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release.

7. (original) The method of 6, wherein the quality measurement is used by a project management system.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release is used by a project management system.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein information used to forecast the software defects is graphically depicted.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the baseline software release is selected by ~~[[a]]~~ the user.

11. (currently amended) A system for predicting the absolute total number of indigenous software defects for an upcoming software release, comprising:

an input device for obtaining information regarding an upcoming software release and a baseline software release;

a processor for determining the relative size of the upcoming software release with respect to a baseline software release and forecasting the absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release based on the relative size of the upcoming software release and the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release; and

~~an output~~ a display device for ~~outputting~~ displaying the forecasted absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release to a user;

wherein the information obtained by the input device includes the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release and

the number of test requirements for the baseline software release, and the processor

determines the relative size of the upcoming software release by dividing the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release by the number of test requirements for the baseline software release.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor forecasts the absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release by multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release by the relative size of the upcoming software release.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor forecasts the absolute total number of software defects for the upcoming software release by multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release by the sum of the relative size of the upcoming software release and a regression defect factor.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor forecasts the absolute total number of software defects for the upcoming software release by multiplying the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release by the sum of the relative size of the upcoming software release and a refactoring factor.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor further determines a quality measurement for the upcoming software release based on the actual absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release relative to the forecasted absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release.

17. (original) The system of 16, wherein the quality measurement is used by a project management system.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release is used by a project management system.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the output device is configured to graphically depict information regarding the forecasted absolute total number of indigenous software defects.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the input device is configured to allow [[a]] the user to select the baseline software release.

21. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable on the machine to perform method steps for predicting the absolute total number of indigenous software defects for an upcoming software release, the method steps comprising:

determining the relative size of the upcoming software release with respect to a baseline software release; and

forecasting the absolute total number of indigenous software defects for the upcoming software release based on the relative size of the upcoming software release and the absolute total number of observed indigenous software defects for the baseline software release;

wherein determining the relative size of the upcoming software release includes the steps of:

determining the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release;

determining the number of test requirements for the baseline software release; and

dividing the number of new test requirements for the upcoming software release by the number of test requirements for the baseline software release; and

displaying the absolute total number of software defects for the upcoming software release to a user on a display device.

22. (canceled)